

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 SR-02

ORM-03 RSR-01 /133 W

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O R 241135 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 670

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSWA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 7116

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, APRIL 24, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 APRIL 24.

PART I - ICCS: HOPES FOR RETRIEVAL OF FLYABLE HELICOPTER
FROM QUANG TRI CRASH SITE APRIL 26

PART II - TPJMC: FIRST INSTANCE OF PROGRESS: SOME CIVILIAN
DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED

PART III - FPJMT/ MIA: AGREEMENT ON FOUR PROCEDURAL POINTS

PART IV - GVN CHARGES COMMUNISTS WITH 11,960 CEASEFORE
VIOLATIONS

PART V - MR-1: MILITARY ACTION LIGHT; GVN AUTHORITIES
INCREASING CONCERNED ABOUT ILLEGAL TRADE WITH
VC/ NVA IN QUANG NGAI

PART VI - MR-2: ARVN TRUCK ATTACKED ON QL-1 IN
PHU YEN; CASUALTY FIGURES IN NINH THUAN
EASTER OUTRAGE: 21 KILLED, 88 WOUNDED

PART VII- MR-3: MORE RANGERS WOUNDED AT TONG LE CHAU

PART VIII- MR-4: ACTION UP; TERRORIST BOMBING IN MY THO
RESTAURANT, 5 KILLED, 12 WOUNDED; ICCS TRI
TON TEAM TURNED BACK FROM INVESTIGATION BY
MACHINEGUN FIRE

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. ICCS CONTINUES TO NEGOTIATE WITH PRG ON REPAIR AND RETRIEVAL
OF SALVAGEABLE HELICOPTER (NO. 115) IN QUANG TRI. AS OF MORNING
APRIL 24, ICCS NOTIFIED PRG IT INTENDED TO SEND REPAIR TEAM AND
FLIGHT CREW, ALONG WITH THREE SURVIVORS OF APRIL 7 CRASH AND
INVESTIGATING TEAM OF FOUR, TO CRASH SITE ON APRIL 26. ICCS
WANTS TO FLY IN BY CHOPPER TO SITE AND ESCORT DOWNED AIRCRAFT
BACK TO HUE AFTER REPAIR. PRT HAS INSISTED PERSONNEL GOING IN
TRAVEL BY ROAD. CONTACTS AT QUANG TRI AND IN SAIGON WILL HOPE-
FULLY RESULT IN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO APRIL 26.

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2. IN PLENARY SESSION APRIL 24 (MORNING), ICCS DESCUSSED SUBJECT
OF PARA ONE ABOVE, AND AGREED IF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES ARISE WITH
RESPECT TO REPAIR AND RETRIEVAL OF REMAINING ARICRAFT, ICCS WILL
PRESS PRG TO PERMIT INVESTIGATION TEAM/ SURVIVORS TO REVISIT SITE
IMMEDIATELY.

3. PLENARY ALSO AGREED TO SEND LETTER TO FOUR SIGNATORIES

OF PARIS AGREEMENT REQUESTING INTERIM SUPPORT FUNDING IN AMOUNT EQUAL TO INITIAL SUM REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE 14 OF PROTOCOL (I. E), 4,500,000 FRENCH FRANCS). LETTER REPORTEDLY ENCLOSES STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL STATUS OF COMMISSION, RECORD OF EXPENDITURES TO DATE, AND EXPLANATION OF COMMISSION'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A BUDGET. (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS LETTER WILL PROBABLY BE DELIVERED APRIL 25, AND MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ORAL REQUEST THAT USG MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET REQUEST WITH UTMOST URGENCY.)

4. APRIL 24 PLENARY APPROVED TWO INVESTIGATION REPORTS FOR FORWARDING TO TPJMC. ONE, FROM REGION VII, CONTAINS STRONGLY EXPRESSED VIEWS ON A RELATIVELY MINOR TAN CHAU SHELLING INCIDENT ABOUT WHICH GVN HAD REGISTERED COMPLAINT. INVESTIGATORS HAD SPLIT ALONG CUSTOMARY LINES. A REGION VI REPORT ON AN ASSASSINATION OF A HAMLET CHIEF AT TRI LUAN WAS UNANIMOUS IN FINDING THE MAN HAD BEEN AMBUSHED BY " PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN".

5. PLENARY APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION ABOUT EIGHT GVN REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS.

6. CANDEL REQUESTED A SPECIAL SESSION FOR MORNING OF APRIL 25 TO DISCUSS CERTAIN MATTERS RELATED TO AIR SERVICES FOR THE ICCS. ACCORDING CANDEL SOURCE, ONE ASPECT TO BE RAISED WILL BE CONSTRAINTS PRG IS INSISTING ON IMPOSING ON ICCS FLIGHTS TO TEAM SITES IN PRG- HELD TERRITORY. (PRG IS INSISTING ON REQUIREMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE IMPOSED ON JMC LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH.)

PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

1. AT MEETING OF TPJMC CHIEFS OF DELEGATION APRIL 24, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON FIRST PHASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONER RELEASE. INITIAL BREAKTHROUGH ON THIS ISSUE-- AND PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENT WITHIN TPJMC TO DATE-- CAME FOLLOWING RVN PROPOSAL FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF 637 CIVILAINS WHICH PRG PRESENTLY ADMITS HOLDING, AND 750 OF 5,081 CIVILIAN DETAINEES LISTED BY RVN. DETAILS
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OF RELEASE SCHEDULED TO BE WORKED OUT IN MEETING OF TPJMC POW SUBCOMMISSION WHICH MEETS 2000 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 24.

2. AGREEMENT ON RELEASE CAME AT END OF OTHERWISE UNPRODUCTIVE MEETING, DURING WHICH BOTH SIDES REITERATED POSITIONS TAKEN IN EARLIER MEETINGS. PRG AGAIN MADE DEMANDS FOR MEETINGS OF LOCAL COMMANDERS (DOWN TO PLATOON LEVEL) AND FOR A GENERAL JOINT APPEAL FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING. RVN REJECTED BOTH DEMANDS, BUT RE LATTER AGREED TO LATER JOINT APPEAL TO TWO PARTIES " ONCE THE THIRD PARTY ON THE SCENE HAS WITHDRAWN ITS TROOPS AND GONE HOME."

3. GVN IS STEPPING UP ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE ITS POSITION ON ISSUES WITHIN THE TPJMC A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. A SECOND LETTER OUT-

LINING RVN POSITIONS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF ICCS, AND
FOR FIRST TIME RVN DELEGATION CHAIRMAN LT GEN THUAN HAS SCHEDULED
A MEETING WITH THE PRESS, SET FOR APRIL 27. ON RVN DELEGATION
SOURCE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE PRG HAD BEEN MEETING THE PRESS
EVERY WEEK, AND THAT IT IS HIGH TIME THE RVN USED A SIMILAR OCCASION
TO MAKE ITS POSITIONS AND VIEWS ON TPJMC ISSUES KNOWN MORE WIDELY.
(ADDITIONAL INFO ON APRIL 24 SESSION REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

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O R 241135 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 671
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CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL JPJMT SAIGON

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PART III: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (MISSING IN ACTION)
(FPJMT/ MIA)

1. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT FPJMT/ MIA MEETING APRIL 24 ON FOUR PROCEDURAL POINTS WHICH HAVE DEADLOCKED FPJMT/ MIA DISCUSSIONS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. PROCEDURAL POINTS AGREED TO WERE:

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- A. FORMAL TITLE OF ORGANIZATION WILL BE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM ON DEAD AND MISSING PERSONS.
- B. HEADQUARTERS OF FPJMT/ MIA WILL BE IN SAIGON.
- C. FPJMT/ MIA DELEGATIONS WILL CONSIST OF 35 PERSONS (14 OFFICERS/ DELEGATES AND 21 SUPPORT PERSONNEL.)
- D. ELEVEN POINTS OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS AGREED UPON BY FPJMC CHIEFS OF DELEGATION WILL BE APPLIED TO FPJMT/ MIA.

2. GVN DELEGATION IS PREPARING A MINUTE OF AGREEMENT ON ABOVE POINTS FOR FORMAL JPJMT/ MIA APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

3. DRV DELEGATION REITERATED ITS PROPOSAL MADE PRIVATELY TO US DEL ON APRIL 23 THAT FPJMT/ MIA TEAM BE SENT TO NVN TO VISIT GRAVES OF US DIED IN CAPTIVITY (DIC). DRV DELEGATION ADDED THAT HANOI IS CHECKING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON A DATE FOR THE TRIP, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE SOME TIME AFTER MAY 1.

4. THE FOUR DELEGATIONS AGREED TO CONSIDER APRIL 11 US PROPOSAL ON DIED IN CAPTIVITY (DIC) REPATRIATION PROCEDURES, AND APRIL 14 DRV PROPOSAL ON GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES, AT NEXT FPJMT/ MIA MEETING.

PART V: GVN CHARGES COMMUNISTS WITH 11,960 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS PM APRIL 24 CHARGES THAT SINCE THE CEASEFIRE WENT INTO EFFECT AT 0800 JAN 28 THROUGH 0600 APRIL 24, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMITTED A TOTAL OF 11,960 VIOLATIONS. DURING THIS PERIOD RVNAF FORCES HAVE KILLED 17,799 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AND CAPTURED 209, WHILE SUFFERING 4,225 DEAD, 20,782 WOUNDED, AND 1,136 MISSING. IN ADDITION, THE GVN ASSET ASSERTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE KILLED 688 CIVILIANS, INJURED 1,948, AND ABDUCTED 1,078.

PART V: MR-1

1. MILITARY ACTION IN MR 1 WAS AGAIN AT A LOW LEVEL IWTH TWO GROUND ATTACKS, 18 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF' S) AND ONE OTHER INCIDENT. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY AGAIN EXPENDED MORE THAN 3,000 ROUNDS; 1,891 ROUNDS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS AND 1,401 SOUTH, FOR A TOTAL OF 3,292.

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2. COLONEL NGO VAN PROVINCE CHIEF (PC) OF QUANG NHAI, HAS
RECOMMENDED TO MR 1 NOT TO PRESS FOR AN ICCS INVESTIGATION OF
RECENTLY

PLACED MINES AROUND HILL 21, AN RF OUTPOST RE- ESTABLISHED IN
SON TINH DISTRICT AT THE TIME OF THE CEASEFIRE ABOUT TEN KILO-
METERS NORTHEAST OF QUANG NGAI CITY NEAR THE COAST. THE PC
TOLD AN AMERICAN REP IN QUANG NGAI THAT ALTHOUGH MR-1 HAD
SUGGESTED THE INVESTIGATION, HE RECOMMENDED AGAINST IT BECAUSE
HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF AN ICCS TEAM VISITING
THE AREA. (CONGEN DANANG COMMENT:
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O R 241135 Z APR 73
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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CDRUSSAG NKP RTAB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL JPJMT SAIGON

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133 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORAR AND ROCKET FIRE, WOUNDING
2 ARVN RANGERS. COMMUNISTS USING LOUDSPEAKERS ATTEMPTED TO
PERSUADE RANGERS AT TON LE CHAN TO DESERT, AND ASKED THE
CAMP COMMANDER TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PRG COMMANDER BY RADIO
ON 24 APRIL. THE RANGERS IGNORED THE MESSAGE. MINOR GROUND
CONTACTS WERE REPORTED IN TUY NINH, LONG KHANH, AND HAU NGHIA
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PROVINCES.

2. ALL ICCS REGION V DELEGATION CHIEFS ARE CHOPPERING TO
AN LOC APRIL 24 TO CHECK ON CONDITIONS THERE, AND TO RESUPPLY
THE SUB- REGION TEAM. THE REGION CANDEL CHIEF IS PUSHING THE
OTHER DELEGATIONS TO ORDER THE AN LOC TEAM TO PAY ITS FIRST
VISIT TO PHUOC LONG PROVINCE THIS FRIDAY.

3. NEW HEIGHTS OF FACETIOUS OBSTRUCTIONISM WERE REPORTEDLY
REACHED DURING AN ICCS INVESTIGATION IN TAN NING OF AN ALLEGGED
COMMUNIST SHELLING INCIDENT. A HUNGARIAN OFFICER WAS STANDING
IN A SHELL CRATER COMMENTING ON THE ABSENCE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
OF AN ATTACK. A CANADIAN ASKED, " HOW ABOUT THAT SHELL CRATER
YOU' RE STANDING IN?" THE HUNGARIAN RESPONDED, " WHAT SHELL
CRATER?" THE VIETNAMESE DUG THIS TO PLANT A TREE*"

PART VIII: MR 4

1. ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS APRIL 23 TOTALED FIFTY, UP FROM THE
PREVIOUS DAY' S FORTY. THESE INCLUDED FOUR GROUND ATTACKS AND 35
ABF' S. MOST OF THE ACTION OCCURRED IN THE TRADITIONAL FOURSOME:
CHUONG TIEN, KIEN PHONG, CHAU DOC, AND DINH TUONG PROVINCES.
LOSSES WERE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE DAY BEFORE AND INCLUDED
23 RVNAF KIA, 107 WIA; 48 VC/ NVA KILLED; TWO CIVILIANS KILLED,
AND EIGHT WOUNDED.

2. THE MOST SERIOUS OF THE APRIL 23 TERRORIST ATTACKS OCCURRED
IN MY THO. A PLASTIC CHARGE HEAVILY DAMAGED VIET MAI
RESTAURANT, ON THE WATERFRONT NEAR THE ICCS QUARTERS AT 1215.
FIVE WERE KILLED AND ELEVEN WOUNDED, SEVERAL CRITICALLY. MOST
OF THE VICTIMS WERE MILITARY OF POLICE.

3. FOUR ROCKETS FELL NEAR THE HONG NGU HQ OF MGEN DI,
COMMANDER OF THE ARVN 9 TH DIVISION, AS HIS FORCES CONTINUED
THEIR DRIVE TO CLEAR THE MEKONG RIVER BANK AND NORTHERN HONG
NGU DISTRICT. UNDER DI' S SUPERVISION, THE PHNOM PENH
CONVOY LEFT APRIL 23 ON SCHEDULE AND CROSSED THE CAMBODIAN
BORDER WITHOUT DAMAGE (APRIL 23 SITREP). AMERICAN OBSERVERS
ON THE SCENE REPORT THE OPERATION WAS SUPERBLY ORGANIZED WITH
ARTILLERY, INFANTRY, NAVAL, AND AIR WORKING IN THE CLOSEST
COOPERATION TO SUPPRESS VNA FIRE. THE VIETNAMESE NAVY
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FOUGHT HARDEST, SLUGGING ITS WAY THROUGH HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. ONE SAILOR WAS KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED.

4. THE CHIEF CANDEL TO ICCS REGION VII REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 22 THE ICCS TRI TON SUB- REGION TEAM DEPARTED FOR AN INVESTIGATION, BUT WERE DETERRED BY MACHINE GUN FIRE FROM SUSPECTED VC/ NVA POSITIONS. THE FIRE CAME SO CLOSE THAT THE TRI TON TEAM BELIEVED IT WAS AIMED AT THEM. CANDEL REPORTED THAT HIS FELLOW CANADIANS ARE UPSET OVER SEVERE RESTRICTIONS PLACED UPON ICCS HELICOPTER FLIGHTS, AND REMARKED THAT WITHOUT THE QUICK REACTION CHOPPERS PROVIDE, THERE IS HARDLY ANY POINT IN INVESTIGATING INCIDENTS.

5. MAJOR ROBERT STEWART, CHIEF OF THE CANADIAN ICCS DEL IN VINH LONG, SAYS THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH A JOINT OPINION OF IMPORTANT MATTERS BEFORE THEY ARE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL MEETINGS. THESE ATTEMPTS AT COOPERATION AMONG THE COMMUNIST DELEGATES HAVE NOT TOTALLY FORECLOSED ARGUMENT AMONG THEMSELVES OVER THE FINAL REPORT. STEWART SAYS THE HUNGARIANS TEND TO CONTENTIOUSNESS, THE POLES TO COMPROMISE.

6. THE VC ATTACKED A PSDF UNIT APRIL 16 IN TRA CU DISTRICT OF VINH BINH PROVINCE. THE DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF AND VIS CADRE WERE KILLED, TWO PSDF WOUNDED, AND 23 MISSING. THE PROVINCE CHIEF REPORTEDLY REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE, POSSIBLY TO AVOID REPORTING A DECLINE IN SECURITY. TRA CU DISTRICT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED PACIFIED BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE. THE LARGE NUMBER MISSING SUGGESTS THE PSDF PANICKED, OR PERHAPS THAT THERE WERE VC AGENTS AMONG THE UNIT.

7. A BAC LIEU- BASED AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT AN INFORMER WHO ATTENDED A VC MEETING IN GAI RAI DISTRICT REVEALED THE FOLLOWING VC GOALS FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE : RECRUIT AND ORGANIZE THREE INFANTRY COMPANIES, ONE SAPPER PLATOON, AND ONE ENGINEER PLATOON FOR THE DISTRICT. THESE UNITS, REINFORCED BY A VC UNIT FROM CA MAU (PROBABLY THE 70- MAN U MINH 2 FORCE), WILL SEEK TO " LIBERATE" MOST OF THE PF OUTPOSTS IN THE DISTRICT, AND ATTACK OUTPOSTS AND DESTROY BOATS ON THE GANH HAO CANAL. FROM SEVERAL OTHER AREAS OF THE DELTA, THERE ARE RECENT REPORTS THAT THE VIET CONG ARE TRYING TO SET UP NEW MAIN FORCE
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UNITS OR RECRUIT MAIN FORCE FILLERS. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN VC RECRUITING IN DUC TON DISTRICT, SA DEC PROVINCE. THE VC ARE TRYING TO RECRUIT GUERRILLAS AND REORGANIZE THE DISTRICT LOCAL FORCE, THE 206 TH OR 297 TH COMPANY, WHICH NOW HAS ONLY 20 MEN.

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